

REMARKS

Claims 14, 19-21 have been canceled. Claims 9, 10, 17, 18 and 22-28 were previously canceled. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 11-13 and 29-32 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arima (US Patent No. 5,281,151) in view of Obata (US Patent No. 6,812,412). Applicants respectfully note that claims 14 and 19-21 have been canceled. Therefore, the claim rejections are moot.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-8, 11-13 and 29-32.

Applicants also respectfully note that Claims 15 and 16 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the Office Action. According to the Examiner's instructions, claims 15 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of their base claim. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Posz', written over a horizontal line.

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